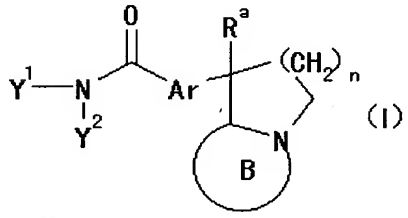
ABSTRACT

The present invention provides an industrially advantageous process for producing a steroid $C_{17,20}$ lyase inhibitor represented by the general formula (I):



(I)

and a Reformatsky reagent in a stable form suitable for the process.

In the present invention, a compound represented by the general formula (I) is produced by reducing a specific β-hydroxy ester compound derivative or a salt thereof obtained from a specific carbonyl compound in a Reformatsky reaction in the presence of a metal hydride complex and a metal halide, and then subjecting it to a ring-closing reaction. In the above Reformatsky reaction, it is useful to use a stable solution of a compound represented by the general formula $BrZnCH_2COOC_2H_5$ or a crystal of the compound which is represented by the formula $(BrZnCH_2COOC_2H_5 \cdot THF)_2$.